



ON THE skirmish line

Newsletter of The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

It's Time for Barbecue

2009 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR CHANCELLORSVILLE

The CVBT annual meeting will take place on Saturday April 25th, 2009, on the Chancellorsville battlefield. This date is a week earlier than what has been our usual meeting date, in early May, but we think this change will better accommodate the many other events that occur in the early spring and allow more of our members and friends to join us on this special weekend.

This CVBT event will be held on the Chancellorsville battlefield, atop a knoll near Wilderness Church, which is an area where troops of the Union Eleventh Corps briefly established a line when Stonewall Jackson's formations charged out of the woods to the west. The CVBT has made several significant acquisitions in the Jackson flank attack area and this event will look back at our accomplishments as well look ahead to the sites we still intend to acquire.



The National Park's authorized boundary includes considerable acreage on the north side of State Route 3 (the Orange Turnpike), but no acreage south of this roadway. The CVBT has acquired ground on the north of the highway, to prevent development of housing where Jackson's Confederates slammed into the Feder-

als. Over the years, we have also picked up considerable acreage south of the Orange Turnpike. The significance of this CVBT property is that it links the flank attack sector with additional National Park Service holdings at the Burton Farm, where Jackson observed the Union army and realized he needed to push his marching troops farther west before deploying to attack. Once the CVBT lands have been transferred to the National Park Service, the view from the Burton Farm can be reestablished and a dramatic new experience provided to the battlefield visitor.

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Saturday's Tour, April 25th

{ANNUAL MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1}

This year's annual meeting site is in the middle of the flank attack battleground and the scheduled tour that day will compliment this theme. Members are invited to tramp a portion of Stonewall Jackson's flank march, led by National Park historian Eric Mink. The group will follow the route of the lean, battle-ready Confederate infantry, from the Lee-Jackson Bivouac Site to the Brock Road. Members will be able to park at the meeting site in the flank attack area (1.25 miles west of the National Park Visitor Center) and then be shuttled to the Lee-Jackson Bivouac Site, at the intersection of the Orange Plank Road and Furnace Road. The first portion of this tour will focus on the command decisions made during the night of May 1-2, 1863 and the subsequent movement across the front of the Union army.

The tour will begin where Lee and Jackson met for the last time. The 4.2 mile walk will swing past the hilltop where the column came under Federal observation, continue into the bottom where the Catharine Furnace was located and where the Federal troops tried to intercept the Confederate column, which left a gap in the Union line that had implications for the events that unfolded as a result of Jackson's attack later that afternoon. Some sections of the historic road are still evident and participants will see the actual roadbed that felt the footsteps of Jackson's veterans. This initial march will conclude at the Brock Road, where participants will be shuttled back to the flank attack area for the second half of the tour.

On the north side of the Orange Turnpike, the walking tour will continue across the terrain held by the Federal formations when they were overwhelmed by the charging



Confederates. The tour will conveniently conclude at the annual meeting site, where members parked their vehicles in the first place and where liquid refreshment and a barbeque dinner will be served. This special tour promises to be a first-rate experience.

At the meeting site, everyone will be able to see the flank attack sector in full, including all of the related terrain the CVBT has purchased in that area. In addition, the tracts of land that CVBT is planning to acquire will be visible and members will be able to see how the overall land acquisition strategy is unfolding. CVBT members should be proud of the work they have supported in the Jackson flank attack area. This meeting will provide an opportunity to see it all at once.

SATURDAY'S TOUR SCHEDULE:

- 11:30 a.m.** Rendezvous and check in at meeting site on the knoll above Wilderness Church.

- Noon** Members are shuttled to the Lee-Jackson Bivouac Site.

- 12:30 p.m.** Tour begins at the Lee-Jackson Bivouac Site (walk will be 4.2 miles). At the Brock Road, members are shuttled back to the flank attack sector, where the tour continues.

- 5:30 p.m.** Tour concludes at the annual meeting site (where vehicles were parked) in time for the pre-dinner reception.

- 6:00 p.m.** Dinner and annual meeting.



ON THE SKIRMISH LINE is published for the CVBT membership at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402. Contact CVBT at 540-374-0900 or www.cvbt.org. The CVBT is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. A financial statement is available, upon request, from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.

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Sunday's Tour, April 26th

{ANNUAL MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2}

This morning tour focuses on terrain acquired by CVBT on the eastern portion of the battlefield and will be led by National Park historian Frank O'Reilly. The area known as McLaws' Wedge is one of those sites that saw battle action on May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Members who have been with us since the beginning will recognize the ground as the site of the CVBT's first annual meeting, held before we sold this tremendously significant tract to the National Park Service. It has since been interpreted, but Frank provides a superb tour that will explore this sector in all its dramatic complexity.

SUNDAY'S TOUR SCHEDULE:

9:00 a.m. Rendezvous on McLaws' Drive,
off State Route 3.

9:30 a.m. Tour begins at McLaws' Wedge.

Noon Tour ends. End of weekend.

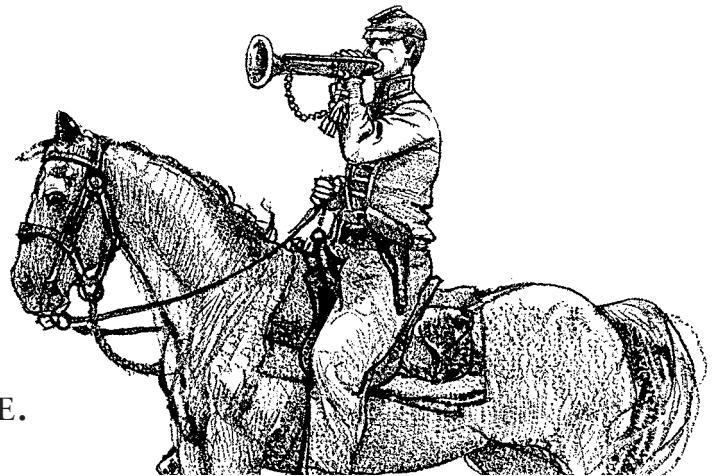
Members should have already received their meeting notice in the mail. You can register for this year's annual event through the mail or through the CVBT website. The various costs are as follows:

1. Entire weekend (both tours and Saturday's dinner/meeting): \$150 for a single person or \$250 for a couple.
2. Dinner/meeting only: \$35 per person, \$15 for children 15 years or younger
3. Saturday's events only (one tour and dinner/meeting): \$115 for a single person or \$195 for a couple.

We look forward to seeing our members and showcasing the good work that your support for battlefield preservation has made possible. *sl*

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

CONCERNED THAT THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRESS RELEASES FROM YOUR GROUP REGARDING ACQUIRED LAND? DON'T BE.



The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is currently working on several endangered parcels and negotiations continue. It has always been our policy to only announce what has been finalized. Be assured we are working diligently as always to obtain those grounds indentified in our long range plan. In most cases these negotiations are somewhat lengthy.

This is an interesting and challenging time in battlefield preservation. The current downturn in the economy is both working for and against us. The properties we seek to acquire seem to be more flexible in asking prices, in

some cases, but the loss of income and revenue from both membership lapses and diminished financial returns on investment income challenge our ability to purchase.

We continue in our mission statement fully determined to complete our plan. As a Board we have realized and enacted new and creative methods to energize income. You have already read about or joint project with the Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable producing the Civil War Fredericksburg "Then and Now" DVD. Other ideas are being vetted and we remain strong and productive.

So stay tuned, visit our web site, and help out when you can. We continue to march forward. *sl*

CVBT Says Good Bye to Founding Director Anne W. Rowe

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust notes the passing of Anne W. Rowe, one of our founding directors and a constant supporter. Anne was one of those persons who remained actively involved in her community her entire life. The organizations that benefitted from her leadership over the years are legion, including the Fredericksburg School Board, the Fredericksburg Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Mary Washington Hospital Foundation, Friends of the Rappahannock, the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Virginia Historical Society, the Kenmore Association, our own CVBT, and many others.

Anne's forbears had experienced the Civil War in Fredericksburg, which brought a special intimacy to our battlefield preservation efforts. In her quiet manner, Anne would share details about owners and the descendants of owners whose land we were evaluating for purchase. She knew how the old Virginia family names were properly pronounced (Fitzhugh sounds like a sneeze). In other conversation, we learned that the Civil War generation used Appomattox as a point of reference. Certain events appear to etch themselves on the memory of those who live through them. Later generations would use Pearl Harbor.



We now use the attack on New York's Twin Towers as a reference point. An earlier generation used Appomattox. Who knew? Well, Anne did.

Unusual Civil War period terminology was also a part of Anne's vocabulary. During the Fredericksburg campaign, many local residents fled their homes as the armies gathered and prepared for battle. They were refugees escaping danger, the lucky ones finding shelter with friends and family. The term became a verb in Fredericksburg, as in: this family "refugeed" to that farmstead. For the record, Anne's great grandmother refugeed to Belvoir (where Confederate wounded were brought following the battle and where Stonewall Jackson would later make his headquarters). These seemingly minor things were always a joy to discover.

Anne did not simply impart quaint details, though. Her presence on our board was one of leadership. She was part of the small group that planned and founded the CVBT. We grew as an organization and functioned better through her knowledge and experience. She opened her house to provide a meeting place. Anne's generosity, her hospitality, and her wisdom reflected the best qualities of her family and community. We say farewell to this special lady who shared so much. We are all the richer for having known her. *sl*



Stay on the Skirmish Line!

Take a look at the mailing label on your latest Skirmish Line newsletter. You will note your personal Central Virginia Battlefields Trust membership expiration date. To help us save on mailing costs and time, please be sure you are up to date on your membership. Although we will send out reminder letters to all our valued members, which means all members, that have somehow missed that all important valued task of Central Virginia Battlefields Trust membership renewal, we would appreciate your help. You might also consider upgrading your membership level to increase our ability to save the hallowed ground we all seek to preserve. *sl*

**Virginia
Governor and
Lawmakers
Hold Press
Conference
for Battlefield
Protection**



ON the clear, cool and breezy morning of Tuesday March 24th, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine was the keynote speaker at a press conference held on Fredericksburg's Slaughter Pen farm. Accompanying Governor Kaine was Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates Bill Howell, Virginia Senator Edd Houck, Civil

War Preservation Trust President Jim Lighthizer and Virginia Director of Historic Recourses Kathleen Kilpatrick.

The conference was appropriately held on the Slaughter Pen farm as this battlefield was one of the first to benefit from the Virginia Historic Battlefield Preservation Fund. This program was created in the first year of Governor Kaine's administration.

Speakers discussed the accomplishments of the public and private partnerships that have helped and are continuing to assist in saving Virginia's historic landscape. Along with the accomplishments it was noted that many challenges remain.

Civil War Preservation Trust President Jim Lighthizer thanked the many entities that came together to accomplish the

nation's most expensive Civil War battlefield preservation purchase to date, the Slaughter Penn farm. At an astounding \$12 million, Lighthizer stated, this was four times more than Civil War Preservation Trust's last most costly purchase. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust was also thanked by Mr. Lighthizer for its part in the success story, the \$1 million we have pledged. **sl**

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Introduces New Executive Director

After four years as Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's Executive Director, Linda Wandres, has decided to take a well deserved breather. Managing the day to day responsibilities of a fast paced organization such as ours is at best exhausting. Just a few areas that need constant attention are keeping up with membership, new members, renewals, past due members and the constant flow of phone calls and e-mails. Then there are the many events both presented by Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and also ones other organizations request a Central Virginia Battlefields Trust representative to attend. One of the most challenging aspects of the job is keeping up with the Board of Director's requests and seeming endless plethora of ideas.

Linda has met all these tasks head on and handled them at a very high level. Thanks to Linda we now have a new professional data base that handles our membership

activities, events and more. We thank Linda immensely for all the hard work and at times endless hours invested in this fine organization. Linda now serves as a board member.

We would like to welcome Jerry Brent as our new Executive Director. Luckily he accepted this position well before this article was written otherwise the work load mentioned above may have given him pause.

You should be familiar with Jerry's name as he has served as Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's treasurer for the past six years. Joining the Trust in 2001, Jerry is methodical with his work and leaves no detail unattended. Jerry is also a consummate collector of all things that are Civil War era Fredericksburg. As a recently retired servant of the United States government, Jerry will now devote his waking hours to running the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. We are still in good hands. **sl**



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The Trust's mission is to purchase Civil War battlefield terrain and to advocate for battlefield protection at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

For information on membership, please write to the Trust at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 22402; call our office at (540) 374-0900; or visit our website at www.cvbt.org.

Contributions to the CVBT are tax-deductible.

Membership Categories

Annual Member	\$ 35	Patron	\$ 500	Life Patron	\$10,000
Active Member	\$135	Benefactor	\$ 1000	Corporate Member	\$ 500
Sustaining Member	\$250	Life Member	\$5,000	Corporate Patron	\$ 1000



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